

May 25, 2007

Dear Business and Community Leaders,

On Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at County Executive Ken Ulman and the Howard County Council stood together in declaring April 2007 as Financial Literacy Month. A month later, I am pleased to share with you the following updates on financial literacy initiatives in Howard County.

Your help is central in making financial literacy a reality for our community, students, and children. I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to this subject. I believe that this is a great opportunity for us all to take part in the financial education enhancement of our entire community.

With so much energy and momentum toward increasing financial literacy in Howard County, it may be time to consider creation of a Howard County Financial Literacy Coalition.

This summer, I ask that you offer your thoughts, ideas and expertise for steps. We are only limited to your creativity and commitment. Thank you for your continued support in making my vision of improved financial literacy a reality.

All the best,

Calvin Ball

Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development Announces it's "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair and Housing Lottery

As we know, home ownership is central to wealth building and financial literacy is a next step to getting and keeping a home. The Commission's first housing lottery will take place on **Saturday, June 2** at the "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair at Oakland Mills High School. That lottery will be for a home at 9518 Pamplona Road in Columbia for the substantially-reduced price of \$200,000.

The Howard County Housing Commission has scheduled a second lottery for pre-qualified, moderate income prospective homebuyers on Wednesday, **June 6 at 10 a.m.**, in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building in Ellicott City. The June 6 lottery will be for the opportunity to purchase a co-ownership for \$140,000 in one of two new 3-bedroom townhomes recently purchased by the Commission and valued at \$432,000. The new townhomes are located in the Cherry Tree subdivision of North Laurel. Application deadline is **Tuesday, May 29**.

Potential homebuyers who wish to be eligible for either the **June 2 or June 6** lottery drawings must first pre-qualify by submitting a Shared Equity application form available at: www.comehometohowardcounty.org or by calling Howard County Housing at **410-313-6318**. Factors considered for eligibility include: income, assets, and household size.

Homebuyers who have already submitted an application for the Pamplona Road house lottery and would also like to be included in the lottery for the townhomes, must call the Housing office by May 29 to notify them of that interest. For more information about the lotteries and these properties, visit the website and click on "Come Home to Howard County," or call the department at **410-313-6318**.

Howard County Public School System Begins to Plan a Financial Management Course

The Academy of Finance Advisory Board of the Howard County Public School System is currently drafting curriculum for a semester-long, elective course in financial literacy. It is projected that this course proposal will go before the Board of Education in October 2007 for approval.

On April 25, 2007 the Howard County Public School System's Academy of Finance (AOF) Advisory Board met to review curriculum plans and incorporate ideas submitted by their Business Education Advisory Board for its new course entitled, "Financial Management Using Software Applications". This course will be an essential component of the business education curriculum offered within the Career Academies Program.

Your vital input in the development of this innovative course is highly encouraged as the Howard County Public School System continues to commit to the exploration of developing a financial literacy curriculum. To submit input, please contact the Howard County Public School System's Curriculum, Instruction, Technology office at **410-313-6668**

Howard Community College Introduces a Financial Literacy Course for its Kids on Campus Summer Program

Howard Community College continues to support financial literacy as a goal for its students and the entire community. In addition to the credit and noncredit courses related to financial literacy already provided, the popular Kids on Campus program will introduce a new course on the topic in the summer of '08 and promote the concept of financial literacy for its elementary, middle, and high school audience.

HCC currently offers 7 noncredit courses which cover investments, financial planning, and related topics. In the spring credit schedule, there are four financial planning classes including one called Financial Planning for Young Adults. There are also 4 courses on business, investing, and finances as part of the summer Kids On Campus schedule.

Howard County Library in Planning Stages of Developing a Financial Literacy Center

The Howard County Library is currently in the early stages of developing a Financial Literacy Center. The much anticipated location for the center is the Central Library located in downtown Columbia. This branch proves to be ideal as it traditionally and currently houses the largest collection of business, finance, investment and real estate resources. In addition, its central location is key when addressing the center's accessibility.

At this point, the Howard County Library in partnership with A+ Partners in Education's "Curriculum Enhancements and Educational Services" are planning financial literacy programs for elementary and middle school age children for its fall programs. One educational tool the Howard County Library is looking into is utilizing Sammy the Rabbit in a financial literacy series for young children. For Howard County's older youth, the Library will be collaborating with Jennifer Mykytyn of Junior Achievement to develop and provide accessible and age appropriate financial information." is collaborating with Jennifer Mykytyn of Junior Achievement to develop and provide accessible and age appropriate financial information

There will be more to come as the Howard County library begins to embark upon its newest endeavor. To submit questions, comments, or suggestions you may contact Kelli Shimabukuro at 410-313-7763 or shimabuk@hclibrary.org